

# SENATE JOURNAL.

## PART II.

---

WEDNESDAY, December 21, 1853.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment—roll called—quorum present.

The Journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Kyle, Mr. Lytle was excused from attendance on the Senate during his illness.

Mr. Armstrong presented the petition of the heirs of B. M. Clopton for land; referred to the committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. Weatherford introduced a bill to incorporate the Lancaster Female Institute; read first time.

A message was received from the House, informing the Senate that the House had appointed Messrs. Fields, Cone and Rogers a committee to wait upon the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor elect, and inform them of their election and the day of their installation.

On motion of Mr. Mr. Bryan, a committee of three was appointed to act with said committee on the part of the Senate.

Messrs. Bryan, Lott and Jowers were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Potter, the Senate took a recess until ten minutes before 11 o'clock.

Recess expired—the President called the Senate to order.

Mr. Bryan reported to the Senate that the committee appointed to inform the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of their election and the day of their installation had performed that duty.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, the Senate proceeded to the House of Representatives.

### IN JOINT SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Craig—roll called—quorum present.

The oath of office was then administered by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to E. M. Pease, Governor elect, and to D. C. Dickson, Lieutenant-Governor elect.

Governor J. W. Henderson then arose and delivered the following valedictory address :

*Gentlemen of the Senate  
and House of Representatives :*

The time has arrived when my official connexion with you is about to terminate, and the duties which have devolved upon me, are to be assumed by those who have been chosen by the people of this State to discharge them for the next two years.

The present is an interesting occasion ; it affords us a practical illustration of one of the chief beauties of our free and republican institutions. When we contrast the operations of our representative government with those of the Old World, we can but admire the wisdom and beauty of that feature in our government and people, which permits the citizen who may have been called, for a time, to discharge the duties of a public station, again to return to private life, losing nothing by the change in the estimation of his countrymen, if he has discharged his duty faithfully and honestly to his constituency.

The occasion for which we have here assembled is to me interesting, for it affords me the opportunity to give expression to the opinion which I entertain, in common with the people of this State, that in surrendering the responsible *trusts* to my successor, both as executive of the State and presiding officer of the Senate, to which office I was elevated by the suffrage of my fellow-citizens, the duties of which I have discharged until within a few weeks past, they are committed into the hands and keeping of worthy and capable men ; men in whose hands the honor and interest of the State may be safely placed, with a guarantee implied, by the confidence of their countrymen which has elevated them to the respective offices, the duties of which they are here about to assume, will be discharged to the satisfaction of their constituents, and with credit to themselves.

Gentlemen of the Legislature : The short time that I have been in the discharge of the duties of the executive of the State, and the circumstances that placed me in that position, and at a time, too, so near the approach of the incoming administration, taken in connection with the fact, that my immediate predecessor had, at the commencement of your present session, laid before you, and discussed, in a clear and comprehensive manner, the principal topics of interest to the people of the State, have prevented me from laying before you, for your consideration, such views as I entertain of the true policy and interest of our State. Yet, gentlemen, I can but congratulate you upon the evidence

everywhere presented, of the prosperous condition of our people, and the evident interest that Texas is awakening in the minds of our sister States, of the importance of her present position. Then, gentlemen of the Legislature, let me, in the language of a distinguished Texian, who has long since retired to private life, urge you to "duly appreciate the privilege of our peculiar position; lose not the opportunity which God has given you of doing good, but act for your country, and that only with an eye single to her glory and greatness; do whatever wisdom and experience shall suggest for the spread of knowledge, virtue and useful arts, and for the development of the vast resources which are slumbering on our mountains, and lying dormant in the germinating power of our soil. In a word, sacrifice all narrow-minded selfishness upon the hallowed altar of patriotism, and by an energetic and enlightened discharge of the trusts confided to you, elevate our young State into that proud rank which her unrivalled and unbounded wealth entitle her to take among her sister States in the great confederacy."

Gentlemen, trusting that the result of your deliberations may meet the expectations of your constituents, and promote the great interests of the State, I leave you with a deep sense of the gratitude that I am under to my associates of the Senate, whose generous aid has at all times sustained me in the discharge of my duties in that body. Gentlemen, I leave you with the kindest feelings for each one of you, and no matter what my position may be in after life, I shall look back with pride and pleasure to the time when my association with you was of such an agreeable character, and that I was the recipient of so much kindness and courtesy at your hands.

At the conclusion of Gov. Henderson's remarks, the Speaker rose and introduced to the two Houses the Hon. E. M. Pease, who delivered the following inaugural address:

In appearing before you to assume the duties of the office to which I have been called by the partiality of my fellow-citizens, I feel sensibly the magnitude and importance of the trust that has been confided to my charge, and a sincere diffidence of my ability to acquit myself of it in a manner that will meet their just expectations.

In discharging the varied functions of the government over which I have been selected to preside, I shall rely with confidence on the cordial support and co-operation of the legislature, without which my efforts can be productive of but little benefit.

Our past history is of peculiar interest; ours is the only State

that has come into the Union by voluntary annexation ; our introduction led the way to an extension of its limits over New Mexico, Utah and California, embracing a territory nearly equal to the entire area of the Union at its formation. Although some fears were for a time entertained of the effect that such a large and sudden acquisition might have upon the peace and perpetuity of the Union, yet experience has demonstrated the fact that no danger is to be apprehended from its expansion so long as the exercise of its powers is confined to those objects contemplated by the constitution.

Our present attitude before the world is not less interesting ; with a territory containing more square miles than many of the governments of Europe ; possessing by nature nearly every element necessary to constitute a great and powerful State, with a large public domain unequalled for diversity and fertility of soil, and a climate adapted to the production of all the necessities and most of the luxuries of life, with a vast mineral wealth and great capabilities for manufacturing purposes, we have it in our power by a proper use of all these advantages, and a judicious application of our means, to lay the foundation for those public improvements and institutions which will hereafter rank Texas as the first State in the American Union.

While we have so many causes for congratulation in the contemplation of our past and present situation, it becomes us as a people to remember with reverence that Being who has hitherto watched over and assisted our progress through scenes of difficulty and trial to our present state of prosperity, and humbly solicit that he will continue to us his beneficent care and protection.

The example of my predecessors will not justify me in detaining you on this occasion to give you my views upon those measures of public policy which I think should receive your attention during the present session. I shall avail myself of an early opportunity to do this, satisfied that your patriotism and enlightened judgment will give to them that consideration and reflection which their importance demands. E. M. PEASE.

At the conclusion of Gov. Pease's remarks, the Speaker introduced the Hon. David C. Dickson, who delivered the following inaugural address :

*Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*of the House of Representatives,*

*and Fellow-Citizens :*

The office to which I have been elected by the people of Texas, is one under ordinary circumstances, ministerial in its charac-

ter, and the duties of which being restricted to the presidency of the Senate, are prescribed by the rules adopted for the government of that body. Under these circumstances, it will not be expected of me that I should attempt an exposition of State policy, or enlarge upon those views which should, in my opinion, be adopted by the legislature in furthering the great interests committed to its charge. This duty has, by the constitution of the country, been assigned to and performed by another, and there I am content to let it rest. I cannot, however, suffer the present occasion to pass me, but on the contrary gladly avail myself of the opportunity now afforded me to return to the people of Texas, through their Senators and Representatives here assembled, my profound acknowledgments for the distinguished honor they have conferred upon me, and to give assurance of an anxious desire and determination upon my part to discharge the duties now devolving upon me in such a manner as to expedite the business of the Senate, and at the same time advance as far as I may be able, the best interest of the whole people of Texas.

D. C. DICKSON.

The Senate returned to their chamber, and the Hon. M. D. K. Taylor took leave of the Senate as the presiding officer thereof in the following words :

*Brother Senators :* It may be supposed by some that I should upon the present occasion pronounce a valedictory, as it has been usual in such cases ; but my protracted indisposition, known to you all, must apologise upon the present occasion for my not attempting that which under different circumstances would prove to me a source of great pleasure. Permit me, however, in surrendering my rights as your presiding officer into the hands of one who has been called by the votes of our enlightened and common constituency to preside over us, to hope that our action as a body, for the remainder of the session, may be marked by that unusual good order and decorum which has so justly characterized our action up to the present time. Hon. D. C. Dickson, I resign to you the office of President of the Senate.

The Hon. D. C. Dickson, upon taking the chair as President of the Senate, spoke as follows :

*Gentlemen of the Senate :*

In entering upon the discharge of the duties confided to me by the people of Texas, I feel it to be incumbent upon me as a duty to myself to ask in advance of Senators their kind indulgence for the many errors which I feel I shall unintentionally commit

during the progress of business here. It has never been my fortune, gentlemen, to have occupied a seat within the Senatorial branch of our legislature, and while I do not by any means pretend to be unfamiliar with the general rules and usages of legislative bodies, I am nevertheless, in consequence of the fact just mentioned, not so conversant with the special rules of this House, and the established orders and precedents under those rules, as under other circumstances I might have hoped to be. I must, therefore, throw myself upon the indulgence of the Senate, and hope that its members will not fail to extend to me upon all occasions, the benefit of their mature experience. And now, Senators, may I ask, that that harmony which has so happily characterized your labors from the commencement of the session to the present time, may continue to its close, and also express the hope that the people of Texas, satisfied with the manner in which you have discharged your duties here as the representatives of their interest, may for long years to come, refer to the assembling of their present State Legislature as an epoch in their history, and date from your enactments here their rapid advancement in all those elements which go to make up and constitute the greatness of civilized communities.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I can only pledge myself, (and I do so too, I assure you, most cheerfully,) to discharge impartially and to the best of my ability, the responsible, and at times, no doubt, perplexing duties entrusted to the President of the Senate.

Mr. Sublett offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Hon. M. D. K. Taylor, for the able and impartial manner in which he has presided over that body since he was elected to discharge that duty.

On motion of Mr. Hart, the Senate adjourned until to morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

---

THURSDAY, December 22, 1853.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment—prayer by the Rev. Mr. Craig—roll called—quorum present.

The Journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr. Kyle presented the memorial of the colonists of Fisher & Miller's colony; referred to the committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. Weatherford presented the petition of William D. Dillon, praying for relief; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.